

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00802 191526Z

54

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 EUR-25 DRC-01 /161 W

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P R 191340Z FEB 74

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5392

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 19 CELEBRATIONS HONORING HEROES OF
OCTOBER WAR: ADDRESSES BY SADAT AND QADHAAFI

1. ON OCCASION OF SPECIAL PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SESSION CALLED
FEBRUARY 19 TO HONOR HEROES OF OCTOBER WAR, SADAT AND QADHAAFI
DELIVERED BRIEF ADDRESSES PRAISING FAITH AND COURAGE OF EGYPTIAN
AND ARAB PEOPLE.

2. SADAT WAS PRECEDED BY ASSEMBLY SPEAKER HAFEZ BEDAWI, ZAIRE
PRESIDENT MOBUTU, AND LIBYAN RCC LEADER QADHAAFI. IN BRIEF
REMARKS, QADHAAFI STATED THAT EGYPT WAS THE STRONGHOLD OF THE
ARAB STRUGGLE, AND HAD SHOULDERED BURDENS OF RAMADAN WAR. HE
SAID THAT PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT EGYPT AND LIBYA ARE MOVING APART
ARE "PLOWING THE SEA"; AND ADDED THAT UNITY BETWEEN EGYPT
AND LIBYA MUST BE PROTECTED. HE PRAISED THE "GREAT EGYPTIAN
PEOPLE" AND EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES, AND CALLED ON THE ARAB
NATION TO STAND BEHIND EGYPTIANS AND HELP THEM REBUILD THEIR
LAND. QADHAAFI CONCLUDED WITH CALL FOR CLOSED SESSION OF
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 00802 191526Z

PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, TO WHICH HE WANTED TO DELIVER OTHER THOUGHTS.

3. SADAT SPENT MAJOR PART OF HIS TWENTY-MINUTE ADDRESS PRAISING FAITH, STUBBORNNNESS AND DETERMINATION OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE, AND STATED THAT IN EGYPT, SOVEREIGNTY RESTED WITH THE "ALLIANCE OF THE WORKING PEOPLE". HE GREETED EGYPT'S "COMRADES ON THE GOLAN" AND PRAISED ARAB LEADERS WHO HELPED EGYPT DURING OCTOBER WAR. ON TERRITORIAL ISSUE, HE SAID THAT ALL ARAB TERRITORIES MUST BE LIBERATED FROM OCCUPATION OR AGGCESSION, AND THAT RIGHT OF PALESTINIANS SHOULD NOT BE LOST. CONTRARY TO EXPECTATIONS AROUSED BY EARLIER PRESS BILLINGS, SPEECH WAS ANODYNE AND REHASH OF HIS PREVIOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS.

4. FOLLOWING SADAT'S SPEECH, AND BRIEF REMARKS BY WAR MINISTER, AWARDS WERE ANNOUNCED: AHMAD ISMAIL WAS PROMOTED TO RANK OF FIELD MARSHALL (A POSITION LAST HELD BY ABDEL HAKIM AMER IN 1967); COS GAMASY WAS GIVEN RANK OF LT. GENERAL; AND CHIEFS OF AIR DEFENSE, NAVY AND AIR FORCE WERE PROMOTED TO RANK OF AIR MARSHALL, VICE ADMIRAL AND AIR MARSHALL, RESPECTIVELY. 3334 EGYPTIAN OFFICERS WERE GIVEN THE STAR OF SINAI FOR THEIR SERVICE DURING OCTOBER WAR, AND 6728 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL WERE GIVEN OTHER MEDALS AND AWARDS. AS A FINAL NOTE, LIBYAN RCC MEMBER ABU BAKR YOUNIS WAS GIVEN THE EGYPTIAN STAR OF HONOR FOR HIS "CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS IN ACHIEVING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN ARMED FORCES".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, WAR, MILITARY CEREMONIES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAIRO00802
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740225/aaaaaxik.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEBRUARY 19 CELEBRATIONS HONORING HEROES OF OCTOBER WAR: ADDRESSES BY SADAT AND QADHAAFI
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LY, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005